only such undecent and disorderly confusion among all sorts
and degrees of men (every mean and base person taking to him-
self that which belongeth to men of the best sort and condition)
as is very unseemly and unmeet in a well governed State,
but also an extreme scarcity of all such kind of provisions both
for her Majesty's purveyance and for the use of principal
persons

22nd December THE EARL OF ESSEX'S DANGEROUS COURSES

The Earl of ESSCT is now returned to London and it is much
noted how his doors are set open to all comers Sir Gelly
Merrick, his steward, entertaineth at his table many captains,
men of broken fortunes, discontented persons, and such as
saucily use their tongues in railing against all men Sermons are
preached there daily by zealous ministers to which the citizens
flock in great numbers , and my Lady Rich (who is in great
disfavour with her Majesty for her adulteries) resort eth there
daily And if any showeth a dislike of these things, he is forth-
with censured as an envier of my Lord's honour and liberty
Moreover, now and then he letteth fall words which show his
disdainful stomaching the power his adversaries have with the
Queen , nor will he listen to the wiser counsels of his fnends
These things are brought to the Queen's ears and alienate her
affection from him more and more, and especially one speech
innameth her most of all, for he said that being now an old
woman, she is no less crooked and distorted in mind than she is
m body

December. THE QUEEN'S PAINTING

It was commonly observed this Christmas that her Majesty
when she came to be seen was continuously

painted, not only
all over her face, but her very neck and breast
also, and that the
same was in some places near half an inch thick

December A PRIVILEGE FOR THE DISCOVERY OF TRADE
TO THE EAST INDIES

Her Majesty hath granted a privilege to the Earl of Cumberland and gentlemen and merchants, that they may at their own charges set forth voyages by way of traffic and merchandises to the East Indians and to as many islands, cities and places there-